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160 YEARS OF FAIRPORT AND
PERRINTON, MONROE CO., N.Y.

Local History Department
SYRACUSE PUBLIC LIBRARY

160 YEARS OF

Fairport and PERRINTON,

Monroe Co.,

NEW YORK.

Wayne E. Morrison

Baptist Fiqial

1949.

The Press of The Journal and Independent. -- Fairport, N. Y.

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In 1789 Captain Caleb Walker and Glover and for milling to Honeoye Falls. Perrin--the first settlers on Perinton soil. The settlers had to put up with the number had settled on land they cleared on Wappingous hardships and the Indians were always Road. They were followed by Jesse Perrin, son deck when the men were away and the brother to Glover in 1792. The next year women had to keep the home fires burning. saw Philip and Elizabeth Piester. In 1795, Then in the winter of 1808, a distinguished Abner Wight chose his homesite atop South traveler, James Geddes, appointed by the Main St. hill (on the present Charles J. canal commissioners, came through to lay Clark farm). Jesse and Levi Treadwell came out the probable course of the canal (for in 1796; Major Nathan Norton and John Scott New York State was at last to have its long the surveyor soon followed. Two more Perrin dreamed of waterway). And in 1810 DeWitt brothers, Asa and Edward and also Thomas Clinton came himself, with perhaps Gouver-Ramsdell were here by 1800. neur Morris, along the proposed route for

These early settlers had to hew out farm further explorings, in the interest of the lands, and make their ever increasing fami-canal. Much discussion followed as to the lies more comfortable was their main thou-course of the canal by the early Perinton ght. That someday a village s h o u l d settlers. Some wanted it to run through, the spring up to the north of them, was prob-present Clark orchards and others in the ably the last thought that ran through the course it now follows. In 1817 the project minds of these farmers and woodsmen on was authorized, and construction east of whose shoulders hung the future of a new Rochester was in progress during 1820 and community. The county seat, which was so 1821.

far away, would offer them a remedy f o r Peter Ripley settled on the north hills in their homesickness, should they care to go the present village in 1810, where he built that far, or perhaps a day at the year-old saw mill and log house. His neighbors settlement of Pittsford would do. F o r helped him cut a road (perhaps the present Church on Sunday they had to go to Palmyra, North Main St., or Whitney Rd.) through the

underbrush to let him through. A few years later, after 1822 he built a frame house at the north corner of Parce Ave. and Main St. His farm was north of Thomas Creek and west of Main St. Across from him to the east was the farm of Larry Wilcox. On the south hill, west side, in 1817 came Martin Sperbeck who built himself a block house. His land extended down the hill as far as West Church St. Whether Ripley, Wilcox and Sperbeck were shrewd enough to see the rise of a village here, we cannot tell. The canal was "in the news" and they were interested in the Genesee Country. Isaac Bears, perhaps as early as 1816 braved the unfriendliness of the lower land between



THE OSBURN HOUSE, FAIRPORT, N. Y.

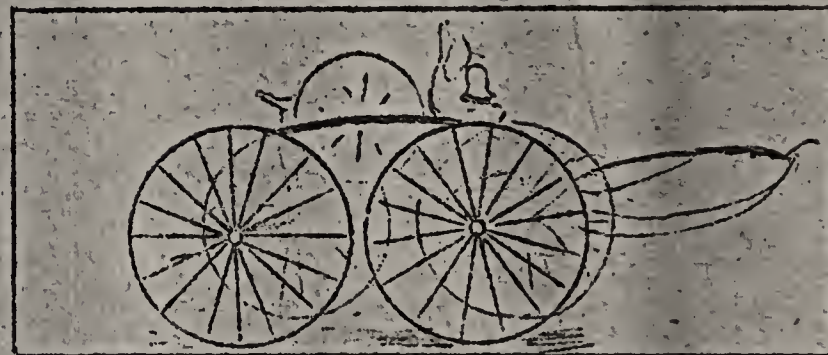
the hills. He bought the portion between 1820, at least all his land on the east East Church St. and Thomas Creek and also side of Main St. It was not until 1822 that fifty acres directly across to the west. Salmon Mallett settled on the west piece of In 1817 he built the first frame house in Mr. Beers' land in his log house which Fairport, on the site of the present Green Jesse Hanford had built on the site now occupied by the Market Basket store. Col. Lantern Inn. Mr. Beers became discouraged by a cold summer in this damp unpromising location; and sold to Oliver Tomlinson in East Church St., and east of Main St.



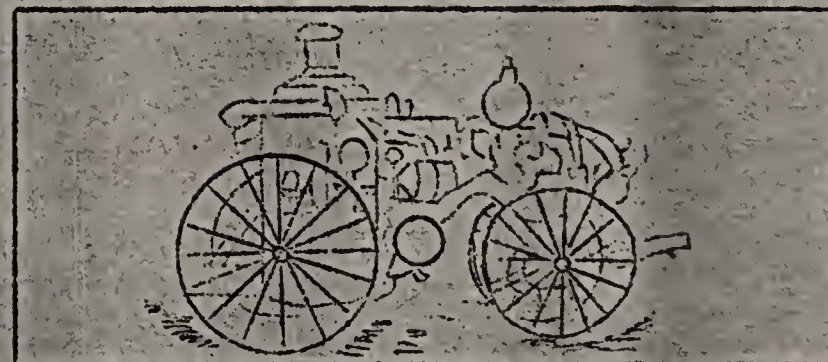
FAIRPORT CARRIAGE WORKS.

G. G. Bown & Sons
Fairport, N. Y.

-Est. in 1862 -



HAND DRAWN HOSE CART.



THE OLD F. F. D. STEAM PUMPER.

By 1822, Rochester had been reached by the digging of the canal, and the first cargo of flour shipped through here from there to Little Falls.

Now the low swampy valley lying east and west through the Town of Perinton became a life-giving area. The quicksands had been



THE COTTAGE HOTEL



TAYLOR BLOCK, FAIRPORT, N.Y.

conquered; the doubtful balance of flow between the Genesee River and Mud Creek, which had harrassed the engineers, and made our township a menace to them, was finally successfully established.

The canal was a "little narrow winding stream, only $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 feet deep, and 40 feet wide, must have made--with boats that must

have seemed oversized, barging slowly along with decks gay with ladies in swishing skirts, flowered bonnets and gay parasols." It carried all kinds of people through Fairport, and time was no object, since the rate of speed was only around four miles an hour.

The canal drew the nucleus of population away from Egypt and the southern and central parts of the township. All flocked to the new settlement around the bridges, which a traveling man called a "fair port", and whose casual remark would some day be the legal name of the settlement. Each bridge had its store, warehouse and boat-barns. There was even a little foot bridge over the canal at the end of Beardsley St.

The first big bridge was east of Fairport (Knapps). Soon came three, close together, Cobbs', Main St., and Fullamtown. So quickly did the business at each bridge take root, that we soon find the three vying for the location of the settlement. Cobbs (then called Peter's) lost out, but Fullams Basin gave a good run for its money, having the first Post Office in the Fullamtown tavern until 1829, when it was moved here. It is

interesting to note that the tavern was later moved to this village and stands at No 10 East Church St., the present home of Dr. Erich Jacobsen.

In 1822, the village was cleared all along the north side of the canal and the property belonged to the six farms. There were six or seven log houses, a frame house and a block house belonging to the men who had settled the six farms. Mr. Abishai Goodell had just started the first store and Henry Amsden opened his blacksmith shop in that year.

All stock ran at large and was branded so that it could be easily identified. Crop-ping and earslitting were also marks of ownership. Bears were abundant, intent on consuming only hogs and corn, and wolves didn't help matters any.

In 1813, the township called "Perrinton" was organized (present day spelling leaves out the second r) at the Center. Town meetings were held either in Egypt or at the Center until the early 1840's with the exception of one meeting held at Col. Peter's in 1822.

The first Church and society to be organ-

ized here was the Baptist in 1816 and the Congregational Society in 1824. The first meeting house was built in 1832, two years later it was enlarged and the present church built in 1868.

UNIVERSALIST-The Universalist Society was organized in 1833, and built a house in 1834 on a lot given them by Oliver Tom-ilson from his property on East Church St.



THE ORIGINAL BAPTIST CHURCH.
Erected 1842.
Corner Main & Church Sts.

It was on the site of the present Episcopal Church. But, except for a brief period of prosperity in 1865 and a few succeeding years, there had been no good years since those of 1845. Fairport is pictured as "having a very neat and tidy appearance-- with the quiet charms of a surrounding country, accented by the white steeple of the Universalist Church pointing heaven-ward.

BAPTIST-In September 1816, the Baptist Society in Perinton was organized. The next year the membership doubled, but around 1836 dissolved, although not entirely dead. On February 2, 1842, they re-organized and built a meeting house in the western part of the town at the corner of West Church & Main Sts. We are told that, when the first church had been first erected in 1842, there was no bell in any of the churches, & a community interest in conference decided to place a bell in the Baptist Church. Their contributions bought the bell. It came by canal. The boat had to lay over- night to get it unloaded and it was the 2nd day before it arrived at the church. Enough men could not be assembled the first time

to hoist it into the belfry, so they had to wait a few days until "force enough was assembled". It was rung by a man named Jonathan Olds for several years. It was rung at five and nine o'clock in the morning, at twelve noon, and at nine at night. If there was a death in the community, the bell was tolled slowly and, at the end, the age of the deceased was struck off in rapid measure. The bell cracked in 1889 and was recast from the original metal and hangs in the present Baptist Church building, an account of which appears later.

FREE BAPTIST-The Raymond or Free Baptist Church had been organized in Egypt. It was moved to Fairport in 1848, and built on the present site on Church St. The present Church building was erected in 1892.

CATHOLIC-In 1849 the first mass was said at Smith Brennan's house, but the Catholic Church was not built until 1856 when it was erected on High Street and later built on East Ave.

METHODIST-The Methodists organized a society in the school house at Fairport about 1826, and had a house of worship not far from where Mr. Hawkins store was on the

east side of Main St., south of the canal. But the society by 1842 had ceased to exist although the Egypt Church, organized in 1825 flourished, and Methodism remained in the vicinity, until another society was formed in Fairport many years later. The present church building was built in 1878.

A school meeting was first held in 1826 at the home of Cyrenus Mallett. A stone house 24 x 30 was proposed and built on land, now the site of the Saleno home on East Church St. The clerk's book for District No. 9 has fortunately been preserved and provides for interesting reading. It was not until 1853 that the land was purchased next to the old school, and not until 1855 that the Hicks or Rightmire house had been built for a school to replace the original one. It was used from 1852 to 1872 when the present West Church St. School was built.

It may be noted here that two sets of survey maps of the canal, the one by Holmes-Hutchinson in 1834, and the other by Evershed in 1867, have been photostated in the Perinton sections and are kept by the Town Clerk in a vault at the Town Hall.

A population schedule shows the growth for

fifty years.

1840--less than 300 inhabitants.

1848--200.

1860--600.

1861--685.

1867--1,000. (when incorporated)

1880--1,920.

1890--2,552.

1892--2,743.

After 1825, the town and probably the village, grew very rapidly, but it was not until 1827 that we had our first tavern, er-



THE KIRKWOOD HOTEL.

ected by Cyrenus Mallett, son of Salmon. The rising of the frame took three days, and was made an occasion not soon forgotten by those in attendance. This later became Pritchard's Hotel....Walter Edmonds in his novel, "Chad Hanna", had his hero spending part of his honeymoon at this inn. Later it was renamed the Fairport Hotel. The building, no longer a hoselry and remodeled into the Millstone Block, still stands on Main St., a link with pioneer days.

The next great improvement was the coming of the railroad in 1853. The canal was still an important trade route but its decline had begun. The first rails were the present northernmost ones; these were laid as two tracks in 1853, and two more were added making four in 1873. The present freight house on the west side of Main St. incorporates the old original passenger depot. In 1882 the West Shore laid two tracks. Later one was taken up, the remaining one is southernmost on the southern group of rails. The other two in this group are one each for east and west bound traffic belonging to the New York Central. The railroad quickened the pace of life in

the village, and the incorporation took place in this era.

On July 31, 1866, a petition was signed for a special election to determine whether the village of Fairport should be incorporated. The election took place on August 28, 1866, and April 30, 1867, the new organization went into effect. The name Fairport was now fully assured. The old records show that the name Perinton clung even to the little village after the canal was finished although "Fairport" was also used from the first.

The first officers were:

President: Augustus C. Hill.

Board of Trustees: O. P. Simmons, J. Y. Parce, J. E. Howard, Lewis Jones, T. L. Hulburt, J. M. Swinnerton.

Assessors: E. B. Herrington, R. B. Hewes.

Treasurer: H. Montague Mosely.

Police Constable: J. C. Van Ness.

These officers met as a board for the first time, May 7, 1867. At this meeting, L. E. Moore was appointed clerk; W. S. Storms, firewarden; S. R. Sanford, pound-master and J. C. Van Ness, collector. The first board meetings tell us something of

the village's condition. Their whole burden was to get sidewalks. There must have been some previously but so many owners were compelled to build them or rebuild them at this time that there were few, if any alike. A standing committee of three, for sidewalks, included O. P. Simmons, J. Y. Parce, and J. E. Howard. The walks on Main St. were to be five feet wide of $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. pine or hemlock planks laid down lengthwise on stringers not more than three feet apart, &c.

Thomas H. Arnold was appointed street commissioner. There was no paving but road beds had by this time evolved from the crooked, muddy paths of the earlier days. Apparently there was already, or soon would be, some provision for their drainage, since Parce, Jones, and Swinnerton were made a committee on sewers and drains. Evidently animal life still presented its problems, as Parce & Hulburt were named a committee on pounds. The lock-up committee consisted of Jones & Howard.

In February of 1872, George C. Taylor took time out to found the Fairport Herald. We are told that when the citizens of Fairport

were told that they were to have a newspaper, the office was packed as the paper came off the press. It was one of the first weeklies in these parts to have its office on the ground floor of a building, (the old Herald Block, now Fairport Hatcheries). The first copies were cherished by some of the citizens, and one copy was placed in the corner stone of the First Baptist Church.

In 1881, S. D. Palmer founded the Fairport Mail. The next year the name was changed to the Monroe County Mail. It was published in the Mail Block on West Ave. It was purchased in 1886 by Will O. Green, who kept it until it consolidated with the Herald in 1925.

Other newspapers published here include: The Bible Echo, in the early 1870's; the Perinton Democrat, published for a year in the early 1930's; the Fairport Times, published by Bill Bryant here for about a year around 1939, and the Monroe County Independent, established 1941, and the Fairport Journal, established 1945, which were consolidated in 1948 and discontinued in 1949, were published by Wayne E. Morrison. They lasted longest, except for the Herald-Mail.

On April 28, 1871, the town's worst disaster struck when a burrowing muskrat made a hole in the bank of the canal at the Ox Bow and 510 feet of canal bank were swept away. The waters spilled over acres of land, carrying away bridges--and the canal barge, Bonnie Bird. The boat was deposited against a tree, a mile from the canal. Neither the skipper, his wife, his steersman, nor a team of horses aboard was injured. The wreck stood in a field for many a year.

The washout drained the canal level between Pittsford and Macedon locks and boats were tied up for miles along the waterway.

Workmen were rushed in to repair the break and were a rough, hard drinking lot. When their demand for pay in advance (REMEMBER THIS IS 1871--NOT 1949!) of the designated day was denied, they rebelled, pushing horses into the canal, and raised Cain generally. The 54th Regiment was called out to put down the insurrection. The sight of the uniforms and guns ended the trouble. The militia stood guard for several days until the break was repaired and their stay at the Ox Bow was enlivened by the visits

of the young women of Fairport who brought them cakes and lemonade....Hum!

A log cabin was still standing on Main St. in 1877.

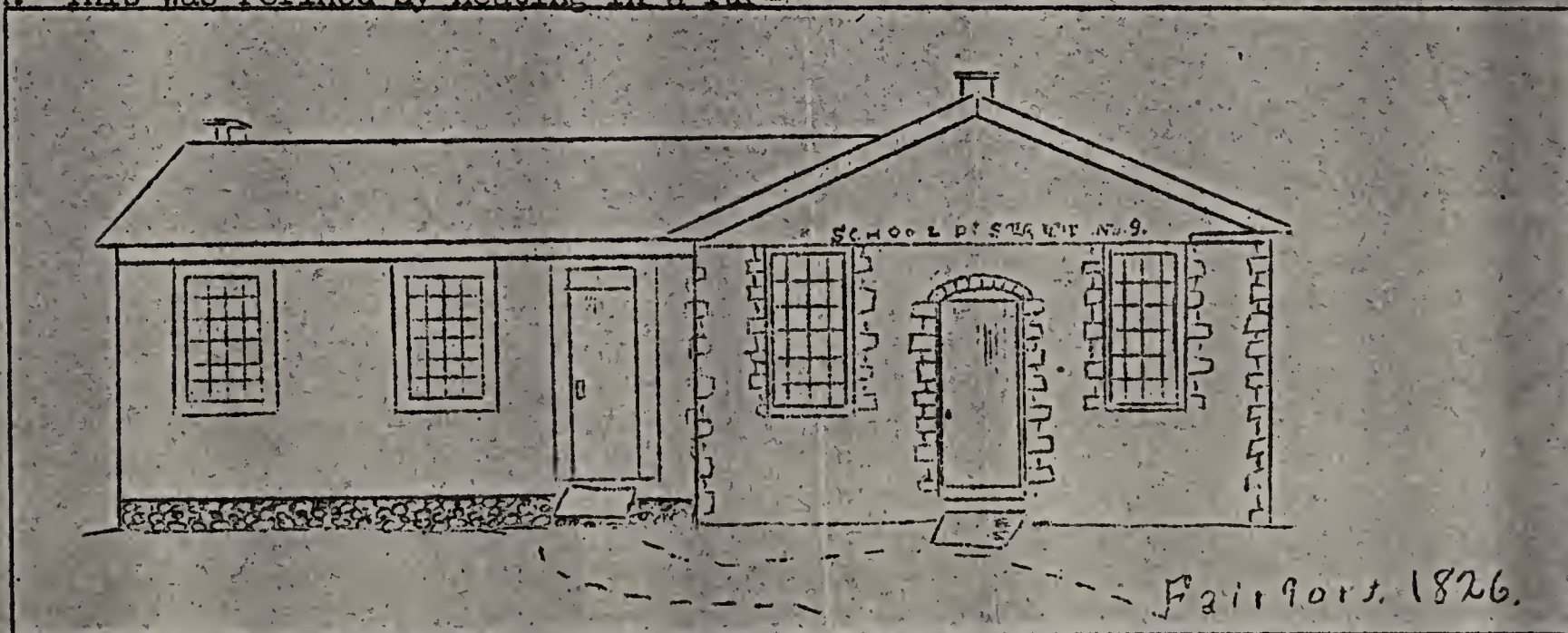
In the 1850's came the real prosperity of the village, the railroad, &c. and the tying up of the soda and saleratus business by the DeLands in Fairport for the next 50

years. The most important was the DeLand Chemical Works. It was started by D. B. DeLand. He had been living on a farm east of Fairport, then went to sea on a whaler on the Atlantic Ocean. Later he was a Captain on the Erie Canal. He learned the saleratus business at Norwich, N. Y., from his father-in-law, Justus Parce. Many of the



Main St., Fairport, Monroe Co., N. Y. in 1888.

early settlers burned the trees when clearing their land and sold the ashes. These ashes were used in leaches; these were barrels filled ashes and lime. Water seeped through the mixture and dripped out of a hole in the bottom. This yellow liquid, lye, was then boiled in an iron pot, and the reddish brown sediment was called pot-ash. This was refined by heating in a furnace, where it turned white and was known as pearl ash, or potassium carbonate. This was treated with carbonic acid, became potassium bicarbonate (saleratus). This process was used at that time and before when the term saleratus (aerated salt) was used to designate potassium carbonate, however for many years now, saleratus has been ap-



ORIGINAL COBBLESTONE SCHOOL HOUSE, DISTRICT NO. 9, PERINTON, N. Y.

plied to sodium bicarbonate.

Mr. DeLand came back to Fairport in 1853 and started his business just east of the Tomlinson store on what is now State St. The making of baking soda was still in its infancy in this country; Mr. DeLand imported large quantities from Europe and carried on research and experiments and his business grew with the times. We quote two articles from the Rochester Union & Advertiser of 1859: "The DeLand Chemical Works in Fairport sells annually 100 tons of its products, sal soda, super carbonate of soda and cream of tartar. It sends its name on neat little packages into more homes than any other manufacturer in western New York. We do not often see so many labor saving contrivances such as machinery carrying material around the building and between the floors." Three years later, the same paper mentioned "an order being shipped to Europe of between thirty and forty thousand dollars worth of goods.

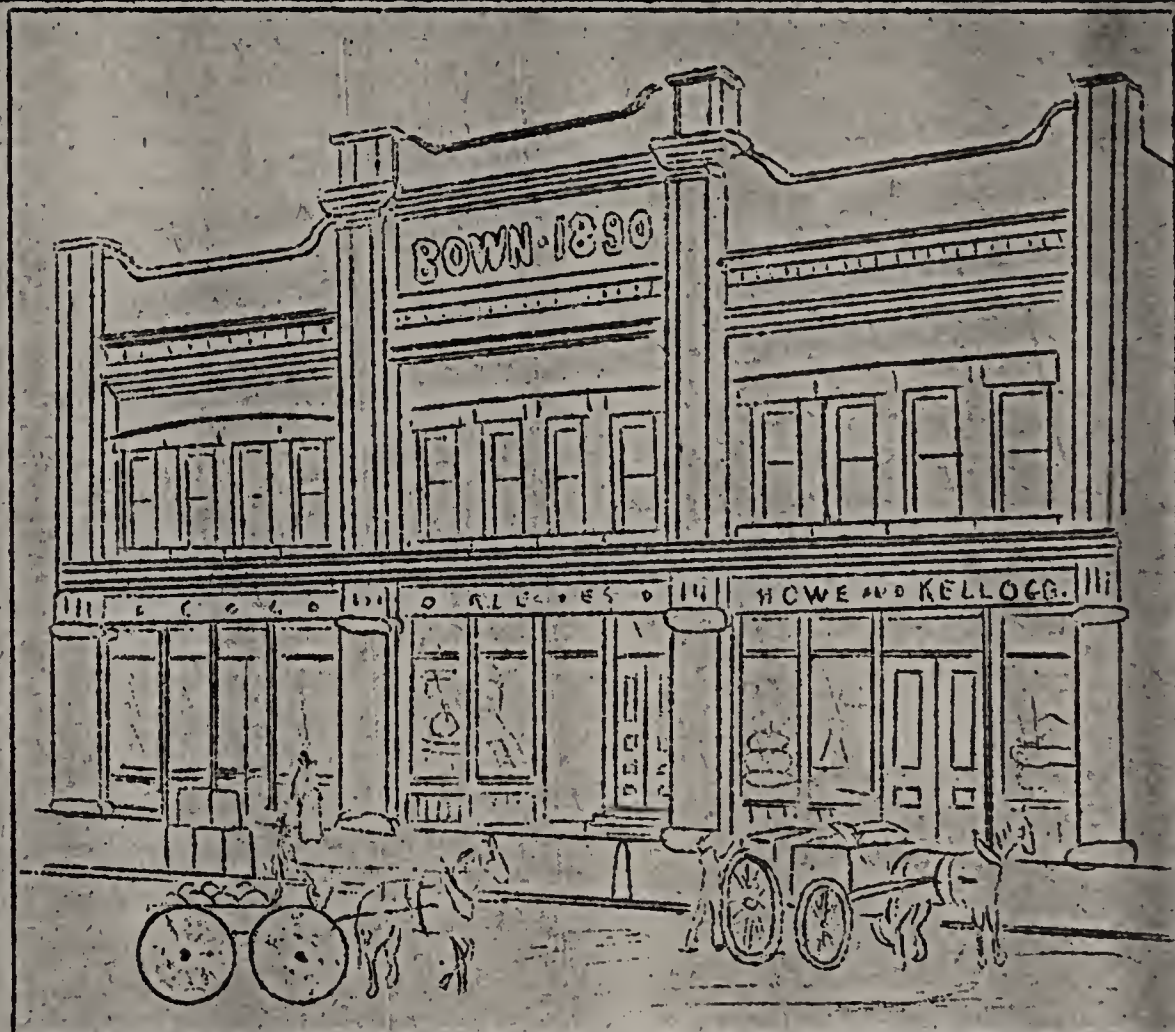
Mr. H. A. DeLand had charge of sales and his methods of advertising were far ahead of his times. At one time 25 or 30 of the agents were entertained at the DeLand home

over New Years. The brand Cap-Sheaf-Soda, was perhaps the most popular. This was a sharp competitor to the rival brands Arm & Hammer and The Cow. Pure baking soda was a welcome product for the housewife and the excellence of Cap-Sheaf-Soda sold it. In 1872 Mr. D. B. DeLand died. The business, was carried on by his son, Levi and Mr. H. A. DeLand. But fate stepped in and by the end of the century after a disastrous fire in 1893, the business waned. In 1881 Mr. H. A. DeLand had withdrawn from the firm and spent 14 years in the state of Florida; during that time he founded the city that bears his name. He returned to Fairport and managed the Monroe County Chemical Works. This company had been started in 1875 by William Newman and John Palmer.

1876 saw the building of the First Baptist Church on the corner of Main & Church Sts. The total cost of this huge edifice was \$30,000, of which the DeLands gave much. The steeple is 184 ft., one of the highest in western New York State. Also, in 1878 the First Methodist Church was built on West Church St., corner South Ave.

Since 1865, proprietary medicines have

The year 1862 saw George G. Bown start his wagon shop in his yard on South Main St. The business grew, was moved downtown, destroyed by fire and rebuilt in the rear of the present Bown Block. In 1890 the Bown Brick Block was erected on Main St., in front of the carriage works. When first built, it housed R. L. Estes, Drug Store and Howe & Kellogg general store. It now houses: Wagon Drug Store, Fairport Dep't. Store, and a barber shop.



BOWN'S BRICK BLOCK. - ERECTED 1890
So. Main St. Fairport, Monroe Co., N. Y.

been made in a three story brick block on Main St., beside the railroad tracks. Once, George C. Taylor, the founder, shipped his bottles all over the world. Buffalo Bill Cody ordered Taylor's Oil of Life sent to him in Manchester, England, a photostate of which I have in my possession.

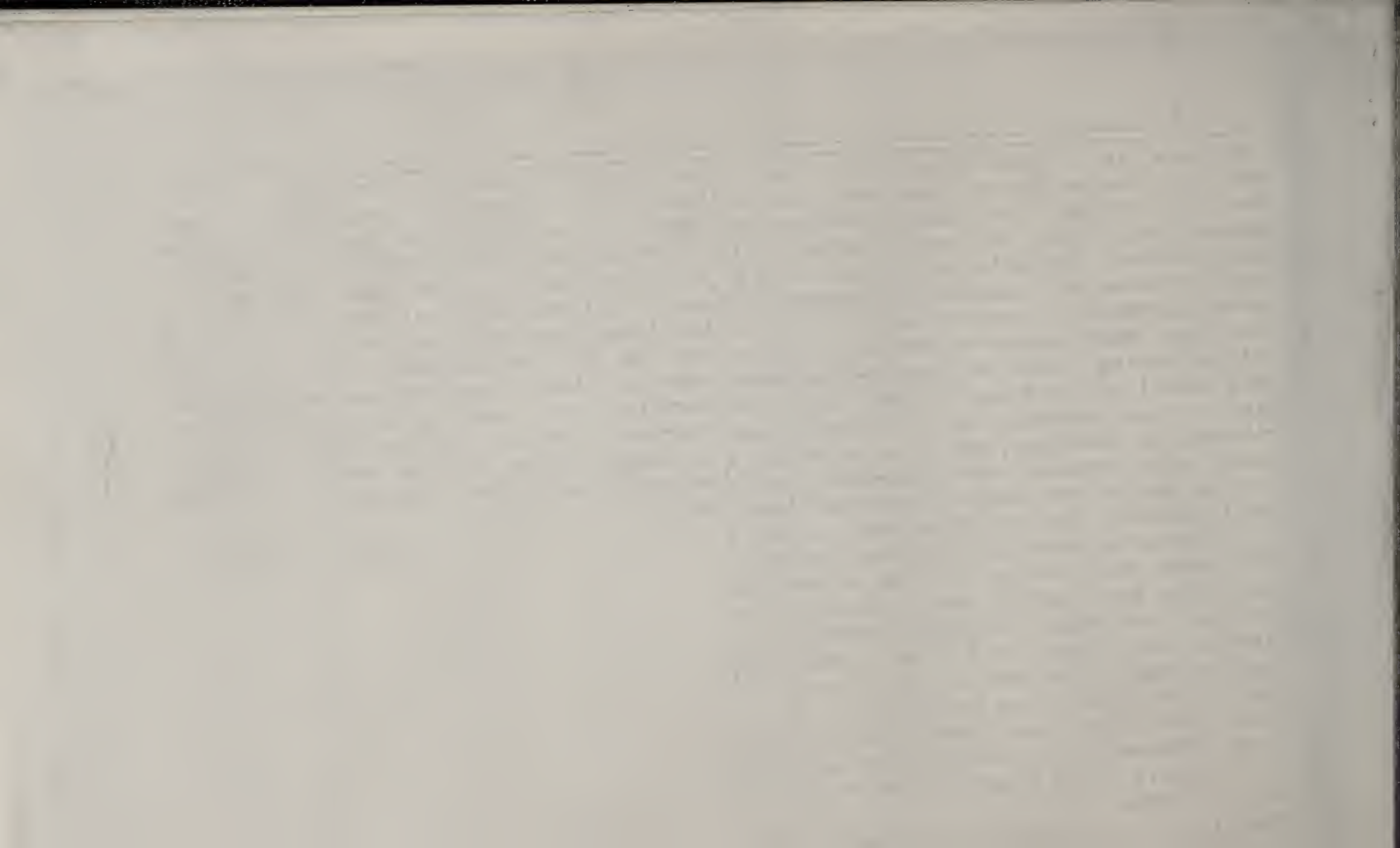
The days when Perinton was the leading potato growing town in America--the district school on the Palmyra Road that one winter when the boats were "frozen in" was attended by canallers, who were so unruly a husky male teacher was hired--the Curtis Pond on the Macedon Centre Road where baptismal services for the First Baptist Church of Perinton were held and the Sunday in 1850 when the wooden railing around the pond gave way, sending many into the water for an involuntary baptism--Perinton's first saw mill saws, old sythe blades--all gone for many years from the local scene.

The 1870's & 80's saw the building of the Adams Block, Bown Block, Seeley Block, Ives Block, Filkins Block, only to mention a few. The Schummers Block (Fairport Hardware) was built in 1850.

The former L. J. DeLand residence on the

north side of town is now the central building of the Monroe County Baptist Home. Many other industries have grown and flourished here, but after their prosperity and the changing times, they too have died out. We leave you about 1900. Electricity had come and the first street lights were put in by the DeLands. Water and sewers were in, there was the new trolley line, bicycles had come in, and in a few years Fairport was to see the first "Horseless carriage. There is much more to mention, but not enough room. THE GOOD OLD DAYS ARE GONE!

- Wayne E. Morrison.



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Main & Church Sts. - Fairport

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AUCTION BILLS, LETTERHEADS,
BUSINESS CARDS, POSTERS,
BOOKS, PRICE LISTS, &c.

Journal & Independent.

18 Filkins St. - Fairport, N. Y.

Was	Now
Osburn House.....	Fpt. Gas & Oil
Baptist Ch.....	F. Baptist Ch.
Kirkwood Hotel.....	Prinzivalli's
School House.....	Rightmire Res.

-*-

Correction!

W. Donald Williams is President of
the Fairport Fire Department rather
than Howard Williams as listed.

Main Street cut should read: I v e s
Henry, Morey, Hodskin and Peacock,
Saleno, and Seeley Blocks.

